



ROUTINE

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DIST 20 AUGUST 1974

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1. IN MID-AUGUST, GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, AIR FORCE MEMBER, OF THE JUNTA, INFORMED [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS PRESSING FOR A QUICK REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE ASSEMBLED AGAINST THE DETAINED OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER POPULAR UNITY (U.P.) GOVERNMENT. LEIGH BELIEVES THAT THOSE U.P. LEADERS, AGAINST WHOM THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRANT A TRIAL, SHOULD BE RELEASED AND EXILED FROM CHILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;

2. LEIGH SAID THAT ADMIRAL JOSE MERINO, NAVY MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, IS IN ACCORD WITH THE ABOVE SUGGESTION. "JUNTA PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET IS STILL UNDECIDED AND,

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ACCORDING TO LEIGH, PINOCHET IS BEING PRESSED BY SOME ARMY GENERALS TO REJECT LEIGH'S PROPOSAL. GENERAL CESAR ME NDOZA, CARABINERO MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, ALSO HAS NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THE PROPOSAL.

3. LEIGH TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SINCE PINOCHET'S APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STATE, RELATIONS BETWEEN PINOCHET ON THE ONE HAND AND MERINO AND LEITH ON THE OTHER HAVE BECOME SLIGHTLY STRAINED. AS EXAMPLES HE CITED A RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW IN WHICH PINOCHET SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN PLANNING THE OVERTHROW OF FORMER PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLIENDE FOR A YEAR PRIOR TO THE 11 SEPTEMBER 1973 COUP D'ETAT. LEIGH AND MERINO CONFRONTED PINOCHET REGARDING THIS STATEMENT AND SAID THAT TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE HIS COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL MOVE. ACCORDING TO LEIGH, PINOCHET WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED WITH THE CRITICISM AND SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE HE WOULD CLEAR SIMILAR PRESS RELEASES WITH THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS.

4. LEIGH SAID THAT HE AND MERINO WERE ALSO OPPOSED TO PINOCHET'S DECISION TO REPLACE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL. PINOCHET TOLD THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL HAD FIRED ONLY FIVE OF 12 IDENTIFIED COLTS.

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MUNISTS WORKING IN HIS OFFICE, LEIGH AND MERINO ARGUED THAT WHILE THIS MAY BE TRUE, THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL WAS PERSONALLY DOING A VERY GOOD JOB AND WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE JUNTA. COMMENT: THE PRESS OF 12 AUGUST REPORTED THAT THE COMPTROLLER HAD SUBMITTED HIS REQUEST FOR RETIREMENT, INTERESTINGLY, THE PRESS OF 19 AUGUST REPORTED THAT HE WITHDREW THE REQUEST.

5. LEIGH TOLD THE GENERALS THAT HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF ALLOWING CIVIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 11 SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER. COMMENT:

LEIGH WAS ALSO OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF CREATING A NATIONAL CIVIC MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT.)

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